

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

SUITE 303
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

ENERGY AND NATURAL
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April 14, 2011

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 10022
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

Thank you for taking the time on April 5, 2011, to speak with me regarding my concern about proposals by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to close certain post offices in West Virginia, including several in rural areas.

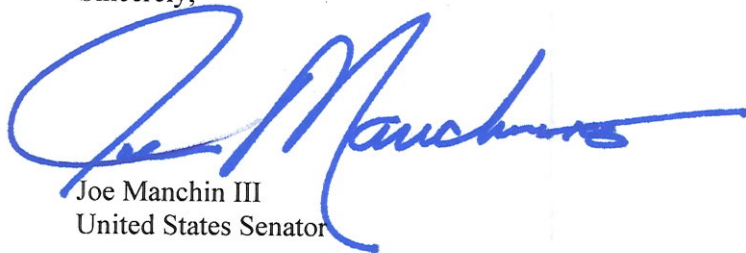
As I stated during our call, rural post offices serve a much different purpose than post offices in more urban areas. I receive dozens, sometimes hundreds of letters a day from my constituents, many of whom can only reach me by writing a letter. Local post offices are a vital link for West Virginians and many others throughout our country. While I understand that the USPS needs to operate in a fiscally responsible way, it is imperative that mail service remain uncompromised.

In following up to our discussion regarding innovative ways to keep mail service intact while achieving cost savings, I appreciate your agreeing to join me in hosting regional workshops in West Virginia to gather ideas from local officials and concerned citizens whose post offices are directly impacted by the USPS proposals. At this time, I am working to identify key locations for the workshops, and I will be contacting you again soon with proposed dates and locations. In the meantime, I would respectfully request that the United States Postal Service refrain from moving forward with any postal closures until these workshops can be held.

If I may be of any further assistance in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for speaking with me and for your shared concern about postal operations in West Virginia. I look forward to working with you to achieve commonsense solutions to this matter of great importance to me and my constituents.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/ec